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To:
CC:
Date: 7/22/2013 2:50:53 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest7/22/13

OPA Daily Digest for 7/22/13

Congressional Inquiries:

Rep. John Shimkus (Ill.) – 7/1/13: Rep. Shimkus requests a West Lake Landfill site visit. Due: 7/8/13. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Deb Fischer (Neb.) – 7/18/13: Requesting information on Nebraska's Brownfields for upcoming Senate hearing next week. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Rep. Jeff Fortenberry (Neb.) – 7/19/13: Requesting information on FUDS. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Sen. Tom Harkin (Iowa) – 7/22/13: Requesting status of a letter asking for clarification regarding the establishment of clean water act technology-based requirements for water treatment plants. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

State Government Inquiries:

Rep. Bill Otto (Mo) 7/22/13: Providing information on Westlake. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Rep. Charles Isenhardt (Iowa) 7/22/13: Question on WRCC meetings. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Press Inquiries:

Columbus Telegraph Herald – Tyler Ellison – 7/17/13: Questions regarding the upcoming relocation of businesses at the 10th Street Superfund Site in Columbus, Neb. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

Lincoln Journal Star - Environmental cleanup in Columbus to cost \$10M - 7/21/13 - The state and federal government are expected to spend \$10 million to clean up properties in Columbus that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency believes contributed to groundwater contamination decades ago. The Columbus City Council approved an amendment to its Superfund contract last week that allows for the additional federal and state funding.

http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/nebraska/environmental-cleanup-in-columbus-to-cost-m/article_8f6ffd60-c9f5-5068-bfc7-8e40ef085c44.html

Springfield News Leader - Joplin tornado-damaged yards have high lead levels - 7/21/13 - Two years after a tornado tore through Joplin, excavation work continues on yards

where high levels of lead were uncovered by the storm. The city said of the 1,091 yards sampled for lead in Joplin's disaster zone after the May 22, 2011, tornado, 426 needed to have lead-contaminated soil removed.

<http://www.news-leader.com/viewart/20130722/NEWS01/307220071/joplin-tornado-lead-missouri>

Associated Press - House GOP to slash environmental, arts funding - 7/22/13 - House Republicans Monday proposed slashing cuts to environmental programs and funding for the Smithsonian Institution and the arts as they unveiled the latest legislation to implement the second year of budget cuts required under so-called sequestration. The \$24 billion spending measure would gut the budget of the Environmental Protection Agency with a one-third cut and cuts the National Endowments for the Arts by almost half.

<http://www.kansas.com/2013/07/22/2899748/house-gop-to-slash-environmental.html>

Columbus Telegram - Cleaners' clean-up could be \$10 million - 7/21/13 - It's going to cost \$10 million to clean up properties the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency believes contributed to groundwater contamination in Columbus decades ago. Columbus City Council approved an amendment to the Superfund contract last week that provides the federal and state funding for additional remedial action the EPA says is necessary to control a plume of tainted groundwater created by three former dry cleaners.

http://columbustelegram.com/news/local/cleaners-clean-up-could-be-million/article_39947a0b-49ef-5f5e-b1a9-5cef919a9cf8.html

Associated Press - People near Superfund site say cleanup is too slow - 7/21/13 - The effort to clean up contaminants from a tailings pile at the abandoned Homestake uranium mill in northern New Mexico is moving too slowly, say homeowners living near the Superfund site. The site's owner says it expects to have the site near Milan cleaned up by 2020, the Albuquerque Journal reported.

<http://www.kansascity.com/2013/07/21/4358273/people-near-superfund-site-say.html>

Huffington Post - Michael Levi Talks Fracking, Clean Energy And More At Aspen Ideas Festival (VIDEO) - 7/21/13 - Americans need to ask some serious questions about the energy industry, according to policy expert Michael Levi. After five years of big changes, "almost all reversing previous preconceptions," Levi opened up at Aspen Ideas Festival about a range of topics from fracking to clean energy.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/21/michael-levi-talks-fracking_n_3624181.html

Politico - The case against EPA political bias - 7/13/21 - Critics of the Obama administration have gotten a lot of mileage by claiming ideological bias at the Environmental Protection Agency. But a POLITICO analysis of the evidence shows holes in their case. At the heart of the debate are the fees EPA charges when people or groups request documents under the Freedom of Information Act.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/07/epa-bias-analysis-94533.html>

Politico - House GOP spending bill targets EPA - 7/21/13 - Straining to meet their budget targets, House Republicans proposed a new round of deep cuts from environmental, arts, and wildlife programs Monday, going billions of dollars beyond the across-the-board reductions already ordered by sequestration in March. The \$24.3 billion natural resources bill represents a \$5.5 billion reduction from what Congress had approved only last spring and is about \$4 billion below what the agencies have been living with since March.

<http://www.politico.com/story/2013/07/house-gop-spending-bill-targets-epa-94549.html>

Time - The Administrator: New EPA Head Gina McCarthy Has the Toughest Job in D.C. - 7/22/13 - The counter on the website standwithgina.com—which counted the number of days the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has been without an administrator since Lisa Jackson stepped down at the end of 2012—finally stopped at 147 on July 18. Gina McCarthy, a veteran environmental regulator and President Obama's pick to run the EPA in his second term, has been waiting almost five months to get a confirmation vote from the Senate, the longest an EPA nominee has ever had to wait.

<http://science.time.com/2013/07/22/the-administrator-new-epa-head-gina-mccarthy-has-the-toughest-job-in-d-c/>

Human Events - FARMERS BLAST EPA FOR ATTEMPTING TO RELEASE THEIR PERSONAL INFORMATION - 7/22/13 - Bob Stallman, president of the American Farm Bureau, wrote a fiery editorial for the AFB's August publication in which he castigates the Environmental Protection Agency for attempting to release private information it had collected about farmers – a scandal which attracted the attention of Congress last month.

<http://www.humanevents.com/2013/07/22/farmers-blast-epa-for-attempting-to-release-their-personal-information/>

Columbus Dispatch - Jack Torry commentary: You'd never know the EPA was created by Nixon - 7/22/13 - There was an interesting gathering last week in Washington. Some of the top names in the Democratic Party celebrated naming the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency building after former President Bill Clinton. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., gave the former president a cheery hug. Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., proclaimed that the structure "will be forever known as the William Jefferson Clinton Building."

<http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/editorials/2013/07/22/you-d-never-know-the-epa-was-created-by-nixon.html>

Energy Collective - Why New EPA Chief Gina McCarthy Will Be Important to Cleantech - 7/22/13 - When he was first elected to office, President Obama's energy strategy was all about using clean technologies as an economic force. By spinning positive imagery of green jobs and the clean energy economy, Obama hoped a positive approach would be the way to change the country's energy mix. That plan, implemented largely by the Department of Energy through the stimulus, was all about carrots.

<http://theenergycollective.com/stephenlacey/251526/why-new-epa-chief-gina-mccarthy-will-be-so-important-cleantech>

Cleveland Plain Dealer - U.S. EPA has to stay the course and complete its study on hydraulic fracturing: editorial - 7/22/13 - By now, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was supposed to be close to answering a crucial question posed by the U.S. Congress in 2010 during the oil and gas boom in Ohio and other states: Is hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as fracking, safe for nearby aquifers and wells that produce drinking water for thousands of people? The fracking process uses water, sand and chemical additives to release oil and gas deposits deep underground.

http://www.cleveland.com/opinion/index.ssf/2013/07/post_113.html

Charleston Daily Mail - The EPA colludes with those who sue it - 7/22/13 - THE radicalized U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a favorite fallback position when anyone questions one of its controversial decisions: "Hey, we're just following the court order." You know the routine. The Sierra Club, Earthjustice, Greenpeace or some other radical environmental group sues the EPA, claiming the agency is failing to do its job protecting (insert favorite environmental cause here).

<http://www.dailymail.com/Opinion/HoppyKercheval/201307210067>

Water Technology Online - EPA reaches settlement with company storing wastewater generated by fracking - 7/22/13 - The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Justice announced a settlement with XTO Energy Inc., a subsidiary of Exxon Mobil Corporation, to resolve an alleged violation of the Clean Water Act (CWA) related to the discharge of wastewater from XTO's Penn Township, Lycoming County, Pa. facility used for the storage of wastewater generated by natural gas exploration, commonly known as fracking, and production, according to a press release.

<http://www.watertechonline.com/articles/166800-epa-reaches-settle-with-company-storing-wastewater-generated-by-fracking>

Sustainable Plant - EPA Fines Avoided with Highly Reliable Emissions Data System - 7/22/13 - A leading manufacturer of ceramic proppant for the oil and gas industry was seeking an emission data collection and reporting solution that would provide greater reliability and uptime when compared to their current system. EPA requirements limit the amount of data gaps allowed in the emission record. Data gathering and/or reporting gaps could result in large penalties being imposed, regardless of whether the emissions were in compliance or not.

<http://www.sustainableplant.com/2013/07/epa-fines-avoided-with-highly-reliable-emissions-data-system/>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

7/23/13 – Meet with Des Moines Water Works, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Karen Flourney, 7782

7/23/13 – Meet with Governor Brandstad and IDNR. Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199

7/24/13 – Federal Partnership Meeting with HUD and DOT, Regional Office. Contact: Dave Doyle, 7667

7/25/13 – Missouri Environmental Conference at the Lake – Lake of the Ozarks, Mo. Contact: Dave Cozad, 7587

7/26/13 – 2013 Regional Local Emergency Planning and Response Conference, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Patrick Bustos, 7969

7/29/13 – Congressman Clay Carter Carburetor Event , St. Louis, Mo. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555

8/14-15/13 – Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Awards Ceremony, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

8/27/13 – Visit Kickapoo Nation, Horton, Kan. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

DRA:

None

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

None

ENSV

None

PLMG

None

RA/OPA

None

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8/13-14/13 – EPA/DOD Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program and Environmental Security Technology Certification Program conference, Washington, DC. Contact: Clint Sperry, 7157

8/28/13 – State of Missouri – Chem/Bio Functional Exercise, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Megan Schuette, 7630

WWPD

7/21-26/13 – National NPDES Permit Writers' Conference, Shepherdstown, W. Virginia. Contacts: Glenn Curtis, 7726, Sunny Wellesley, 7136

7/24-25/13 – Public Water Supply System End of Year Meeting with Nebraska Health and Human Services, Lincoln, Neb. Contacts: Ken Deason, 7585, Scott Marquess, 7131